

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 6, and 13 - 23 are currently pending with claims 1 - 3 and 5 - 6 having been amended, claim 4 having been canceled, and claims 13 - 23 having been added. Claims 7 - 12 were previously withdrawn from consideration. No new matter has been added. Support for the amended and added claims may be found in the application as originally filed at page 13, lines 5 - 10 and FIG. 6 (among other places) of the application as originally filed.

Counsel of Applicant thanks the Examiner for the reminder that a certified copy of the Japanese priority document has not been submitted. A certified copy of the Japanese priority document is submitted with the instant amendment.

Counsel thanks the Examiner for pointing out deficiencies in the submitted Information Disclosure Statement. A complete Information Disclosure Statement is submitted with the instant amendment.

The Examiner has asserted that the title of the invention is not descriptive. The title has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1 - 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, as being indefinite, and more specifically for supplying insufficient antecedent basis for "the surface," recited in claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to overcome this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Fontana, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,798,890 [Fontana].

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Fontana.

It is noted with appreciation, however, that claims 3 and 4 would recite allowable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph.

Original claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in allowed claim 4, and therefore, claim 1 as amended should be allowable.

Original claim 6 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that recited in amended claim 1 and should be allowable.

New claims 13 and 14 include limitations similar to amended claim 1 and are believed to be allowable.

New claim 23 includes the limitations of original claim 1 and allowed claim 3 and should therefore be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Rodney C. LeRoy
Reg. No. 53,205

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
RCL:mmm
60203755 v1